

Georgia Department of Human Resources

Division of Family and Children Services

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is responsible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food stamp benefits, and social services to assist low-income families or families in crisis. The division budget for FY 2003 was over \$1 billion, including \$430 million in state funds.

Benefits and employment programs

Caseworkers in 159 county departments of Family and Children Services take applications and certify families for **TANF** (also known as welfare), **food stamps**, **Medicaid** and **childcare**.

In FY 2003

- TANF benefits totaling more than \$156 million were paid. A monthly average of 138,624 Georgians received TANF. Of these, 76 percent were children; the others were their adult caregivers.
- Food stamp benefits worth \$772 million were issued. About 760,076 low-income people received food stamps monthly. The average was \$85 a month in benefits
- 61,992 children were in subsidized childcare each month, at a cost of \$182 million. Subsidized childcare allows low-income families to pay for day care on a sliding fee scale so they can work or train for employment.

Social services

Caseworkers provide a wide variety of social services including **protective services** to abused and neglected children and their families, and abused or exploited adults.

In FY03

- Child Protective Services workers investigated 66,984 reports of child maltreatment.
- There was an average 5,003 **adult protective services** cases per month.
- About 14,481 children were in the legal custody of DFCS each month, more than half of them in family foster care homes.

Other programs

The **Community Services Block Grant** helps low-income families become self-sufficient. In FY03

- Twenty community action agencies and four local governments received approximately \$16.3 million in federal funds through DFCS' Community Services Section to provide such services as employability preparation, transportation, housing and nutrition.
- The **Energy Assistance Program** distributed \$21.4 million to 131,000 eligible low-income families to help pay their home heating costs
- The **Refugee Resettlement Program** awarded more than \$5 million in contracts to public and private agencies for social services and targeted assistance for about 1200 refugees.

- The **Family Violence Program** approves and administers funds for 43 private, nonprofit agencies serving victims of domestic violence. Agencies sheltered 7,853 women and children in calendar year 2002 and served more than 31,000 nonresident victims.
- The **Emergency Food Assistance** program provided commodity foods to more than one million low income households and provided 5,306,184 meals for congregate feeding sites, such as homeless shelters.
- The **Nutrition Assistance** program, serving poor families receiving TANF or transitioning to work, provided food to 358,000 families.